

BLUES SLAM K's

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Kingstonian 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS put the physical and mental bruising of last Wednesday night's F.A. Cup replay defeat at Slough far to one side for their Isthmian League vengeance bid at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Newly-appointed team manager Vin Burgess, greeted by injury problems and general inconsistency among his playing squad, took on a task equal to any of the seven labours of Hercules when aiming to restore Kingstonian's sagging fortunes.

But don't let that fool you. The Blues, returning to attacking thoughts, would have played them off the park anyway on this form.

By half-time, Wycombe's only away defeat of the season under the Richmond Road floodlights, was well on the way to being avenged. Wanderers led 3-0 with their visitors enacting an essentially pedestrian role.

Destroyer-in-chief was Tony Horseman. Re-instated to a side re-shuffled because of injuries to John Delaney and Johnny Hutchinson, Horseman kept an eagle eye open for lapses in the Kingstonian defensive covering.

By scoring one and chalking up an assist in the other three goals, he made any further comment on his omission at Slough superfluous, as did a

By
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notebook full of Tony's activities, particularly in the first half.

Perhaps, though it is to Les Hartridge that the first helping of praise should go. A model of midfield power, he stepped into the back four to fill in for Delaney and blended efficiently with Ted Powell to keep Kingstonian to just one shot at John Maskell all match.

The only other time Kingstonian caught Wycombe wide open, early in the second half, Green rammed a shot well wide.

Having fallen behind somewhat with their League programme, Wycombe could ill afford any hangover from Wednesday night. So a dull, ten minute sizing up period seemed ominous.

It ended abruptly however when Geoff Anthony, also recalled in the shuffle, made ground on his wing to begin a

movement from Larry Pritchard to Horseman whose kick hit the Kingstonian woodwork. The ball deflected across the goalface stretching the visitors, and Keith Searle slipped in to make it 1-0.

The post was still vibrating from Horseman's effort when, three minutes later, the number eight created a splendid opening for Searle to add another goal. But Searle's miscued shot flashed wide of the mark.

Sixty seconds later, Paul Fuschillo overlapped up the right touchline. Via Horseman, Keith Blunt received possession and, from the edge of the box, cannoned in goal number two off the underside of Kingstonian's crossbar.

Another three minutes and the blond haired Wheeler had to bring Horseman down a fraction outside the K's area to stall any further calamities for the visitors.

And when both Searle and Horseman sent balls whizzing high into the box, K's looked vulnerable to the extreme. Pritchard's side kick almost tricked their third choice 'keeper, Bentley, and following on a corner, Pritchard sent the ball back for Hartridge to unluckily find the post with a fine header.

Horseman's 20 yarder proved too hot for Bentley to handle, but the 'keeper slid in to save the situation from Hawkins' backpass.

Hawkins spent considerable energy on retriever duty. With eight minutes to play before half-time, he drove a clearance deliberately high of his own bar for a corner after Pritchard had lined up a shot for Searle.

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Barry Baker took over as man in the spotlight after half-time, when, perhaps inevitably the pace slackened. Wycombe were taking a well earned breather — or comparative breather at least. But Kingstonian rarely emerged with any co-ordinated plan.

Despite lively work by left John Doyle, their efforts always broke down somewhere along the line, and the one occasion they seemed to be heading for score, Green belted his 55th minute shot well to the left of the net.

Seven minutes later, Baker standing just outside the Kingstonian box, unleashed a bullet-like shot for what would have been a fine, if rare, goal. Unhappily, a colleague was caught offside, and it was so after, in the 68th minute that Wycombe corner, lofted off to right by Horseman, led to the next breakthrough.

Baker helped the ball inside. Wheeler tried to head it away but Bernie Bremer dived for an intercepting header which flashed between a narrow channel of players in the crowd area.

Bremer's match had been listless affair on the whole however.

Wanderers often hovered around a fifth goal, and came closest to it in the 77th minute when a Hartridge header near the net caught Bentley out of position, but Markham barged down the threat.

A late leg injury to Hartridge saw sub. Vince Faulkner action for seven minutes.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS:
Maskell, K. Blunt, P. Fuschillo, E. Powell, L. Hartridge, (sub. Faulkner, 83rd min.), B. Baker, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman, Searle, B. Bremer, G. Anthony.

KINGSTONIAN: C. Bentley, Hawkins, T. Bealey, G. Gayle, S. Markham, M. Preston, J. Doyle, B. Wheeler, P. Hennessy, C. Davis, A. Green.

Referee: T. R. Hall (Hatfield).
Half time: 3-0. Goalscorer: Wycombe—Searle (10), Blunt (1), Horseman (42), Bremer (68).
Attendance: 1,820.